

# April

Magic Lantern Society **NEWS** 2014

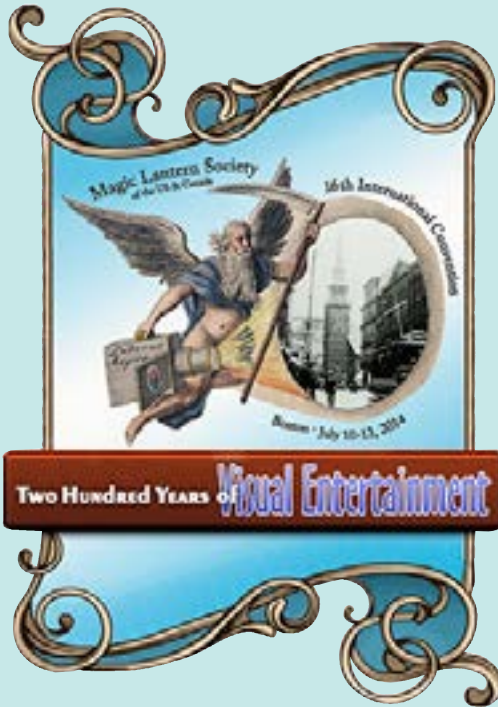


Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

*Announcement Slide for Those April Showers*



## Boston Massachusetts July 10-13, 2014



***Each month until we meet in July for the 16th International Magic Lantern Convention I will provide an update on some aspect of the convention weekend. I thought I would start with some highlights of what should be a fabulous weekend of shows and presentations. Here are four of the offerings during the weekend.***

***Chairman Dick Balzer  
DickBalzer@gmail.com.***

Spring is almost with us, and for those of us in Northeast we can't wait to be finally through winter. Flowers should be budding and the Magic Lantern Convention is only slightly more than three months away.

Here are four more shows/presentations from the great program we have been able to put together. Suzzane Wray will be giving a presentation entitled, "Amusement for the Million: The Conflagration of Moscow. Suzzane has used a distinctive image used in advertising the show to help explore the ventriloquists/magicians who were associated with this amazing Dioramic performance that traveled throughout the Northeast of United States between 1840-1860.



Mervyn Heard will make a presentation/show about The Great Snazelle. Snazelle was a late 19th century lantern showman, storyteller, opera singer and traveler. He traveled the world with his most



famous show" How Bill Adams Won the Battle of Waterloo." Mervyn will talk about Snazelle's time in America.

Laura Zotti, with the assistance of Larry Rakow, will make a presentation entitled "The Magic Lantern in Veneto between 1700 and 1800". This talk will focus on early lantern entertainers, in particular the "great" Belzoni, the father of Egyptology. There is mention of an astronomer of the University of Padua, Giovanni Santini, and many others.



Dr. Janeann Dill will be making a presentation about Jules Engel entitled, "Visualizing Art History: Inside the Pre-Cinematic Art and Life of Experimental Animation Pioneer, Jules Engel. Janeann will present the work of Jules Engel and connect the pre-cinematic history of the salon toys with the history of contemporary experimental animation.

***The host committee looks forward to seeing you all in July.***

*Those of you who have already registered and made hotel reservations we look forward to seeing you. Those who haven't there still is plenty of time. There are no more rooms available at the Day's Hotel at \$129/night but you can still book rooms at \$149/night. Call 617-254-1234 and mention the Magic Lantern Society to get this special rate. For those of you who might like to try to find other housing a good alternative source is Airbnb. It is a website that provides private rooms or apartments/houses to rent on a short-stay basis. We live in Brookline and there are plenty of listings for the town. The website's address is. <https://www.airbnb.com>*



## Magic Lantern a TV Star

From Terry Borton



### THE ARTFUL DETECTIVE

It's 1890s Toronto, and Detective William Murdoch cracks the toughest cases using Steampunk technology in this weekly Ovation mystery series. Follow Murdoch as he employs unorthodox methods of detection to solve the most intricate mysteries.

The magic lantern is featured regularly in Artful Detective, a show set In Victorian Toronto, and currently being shown on the Ovation cable channel. According to the show's blurb:

Cutting-edge Victorian science meets cunningly plotted mystery in this new Canadian television drama. Detective William Murdoch (Yannick Bisson) is an investigator in Toronto in 1895, using then unconventional means to solve crimes: fingerprinting, blood testing, and trace evidence. He crosses paths with some of the era's most famous figures including Arthur Conan Doyle and Prince Alfred. "Stylish period thriller"—Globe and Mail(UK). 13 episodes; SDH subtitles; approx. 598 min. on 4 DVDs.

The lantern is used to project images of evidence, fingerprints, etc. so that they can be discussed by the group.

### From Easterdays

*The show is originally presented as the 'Murdoch Mysteries' on CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation), currently on at 8 pm Mondays on CBC. Seasons 1-3 available on Netflix Streaming.*

*(PS, pretty entertaining historical mystery show, even when there are no magic lanterns featured)*



<http://longwhitekid.wordpress.com/2013/10/>

**Interesting Site With History of Products and Company**



**Peter Pan Ice Cream glass lantern slide advertising for cinemas, made between 1958-1961, probably by Andy Keen. Courtesy of the Denne family collection.**



## Share Your Information! What Do You Know About These Slides?



**FINE ART SLIDES**  
were printed on celluloid by a  
photo-mechanical process.

*Fine art non-breakable celluloid projection  
slides are manufacture and sold by International  
Lantern Slide Corporation  
Ad from Film Daily July 1919*



**Join us if you're in the Area!  
Show Experience Weekend**

**April 11 & 12**

Puget Sound Photographic Collector Society is hosting the Northwest Group of the Magic Lantern Society this year as our guest speaker for the "Show Experience Weekend".

**A Stereopticon Show  
with Illustrated Views**

**Friday night presentation April 11 at  
7 pm at Kent Commons**

One of the wonders that Victorian audiences had for entertainment was a magic lantern show, or, as we Americans often called them, a stereopticon show, meaning "true to life," not a stereo projection. Magic lantern shows were the combination of projected images, live narration, and some times live music. They were incredibly popular 100 years ago.



The Magic-Lantern Group NW is a group of individuals from The Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada. The group provides programs, displays and activities about the magic lantern.



**There is a rich history of magic lanterns in the northwest ...**

Coming is an opportunity to see and hear about the magic lantern society and some of the history of lantern slide use here in the northwest.

Learn about:

- moving images before the invention of the movies
- the "Flanders 20"
- the story of a "Pathfinding Expedition"
- photographers and photographic mishaps
- individuals that helped the Good Road Movement
- the secret that was part of the "Pathfinding Expedition"

**The presentation is FREE and refreshments will be served.**



**Also Saturday April 12**

**Come join us**



**April 12, 2014**

**Thirty Fourth Annual  
Camera and Photographica  
Sale, Swap, & Show**

**Mark Your Calendar**

**Kent Commons**  
525 4th Ave. North  
Kent, WA.

<b>Admission:</b>	<b>Hours:</b>
Early admission: \$15.00	9:30 am: Early admission buyers may enter
General Admission: \$5.00	10:00 am to 4:00 pm: Open to the general public

**John Potter and  
His Magic Lantern**

Gave a show March 11, 2014 at  
2:30 p.m. at Bridgeport Place in  
University Place.

There will be another show on  
April 1, for the Depression Era  
Glass collectors.

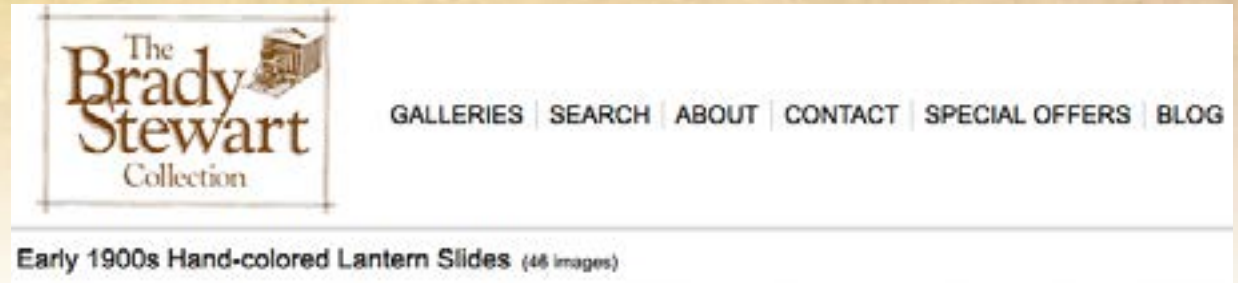
## A Site of Beautiful Hand Colored Slides

November 23, 2011



Brady Stewart and three friends went to Idaho on a lark from 1909 thru early 1912. As part of the Mondell Homestead Act, they received a grant of 160 acres north of the Snake River. Brady Stewart photographed the adventures of farming along with the spectacular landscapes. To

<http://bradystewartcollection.wordpress.com/2011/11/23/pittsburgh-photo-club/>



give family and friends a better feel for the adventure, he hand-colored black and white negatives into full-color 3x4 lantern slides (see below). The Process: He contacted a negative with another negative to create a positive slide. He then selected a fine brush and colors and meticulously created full color. He colored additional slides for a presentation to the Pittsburgh Historical Society (1928).



<http://bradystewartphoto.photoshelter.com/gallery/Hand-colored-Positive-Slides/G0000cPWtCKzQbil/>



## Another Site of Beautiful Hand Colored Slides

<http://www.vintag.es/2011/04/moscow-in-1930s.html>

**vintage everyday**

denoting something of high quality, something  
from the past or characteristic of the best period

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TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2011

Moscow in 1930s



**The GUM supermarket**

**The Kremlin from the Bolshoi  
Kamenny Most**



**Sverdlov (Theatre) square**



**The Christ Savior cathedral,  
blown up in 1931**



**The Kremlin from the Bolshoi  
Moskvoretsky Most**



By  
Sarah  
Dellmann



Since October 2013, this series interviews scholars about the role of the magic lantern in their research, across the disciplines and across all possible entry points. Academic research is often based on the knowledge of collectors and amateurs – this series aims to share information the other way around. What do academics do with the information after having browsed through your collections? What do they see in the archival material and what does the lantern or lantern practices help them to explain? I hope this series contributes to the accessibility of academic research and strengthens the ties between collectors and academics in this Society. In the seventh edition of this series, the word is to Kurt Vanhoutte and Nele Wynants from Antwerp.

If you wish to share your work, contact Sarah ([s.dellmann@uu.nl](mailto:s.dellmann@uu.nl))

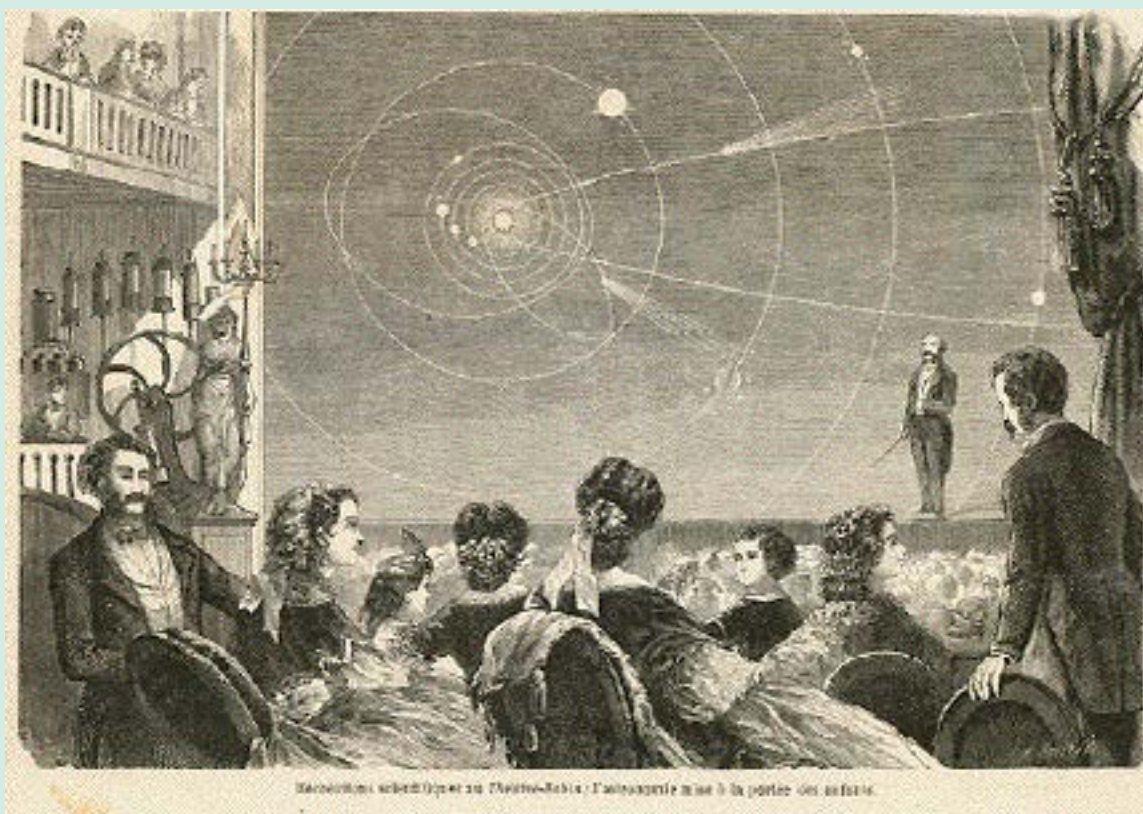
## Magic Lantern In Academic Research Interview with Kurt Vanhoutte & Nele Wynants (University of Antwerp)

### Where do you work and what is the topic of your research?

We both work at the Research Centre for Visual Poetics, which affiliates with Theatre and Film studies at the University of Antwerp.

Recently, we launched an initiative focussing on the staging of scientific experiments in

the 19th century theatre, and the use of new technologies such as the magic lantern to popularize science in spectacular shows. Visiting scientific lectures in the theatre, the opera or the observatory was a popular public pursuit. The performance of astronomy, the



**Recreations scientifiques au Theatre Robin**

*continued next page*



## Interview with Kurt Vanhoutte & Nele Wynants continued

first precision science and, in the 19th century, the model of what science should be, provides a case in point. If you had visited London, Paris or Berlin at that time, it is quite probable that for an evening out you might have attended a planetarium performance. The show delivered cosmological narratives that situated the place of man, his progress and technology in a rapidly evolving world. To this end, models of the celestial bodies – the stars, planets and comets – were colourfully animated in front of a lively audience. These popular, intermedial shows combined traditional theatre with moving transparent paintings and magic lantern slides. Like in so many spectacular cultural instances (phantasmagoria, the wax museum, panoramic displays) the distinction between sensational entertainment and scientific demonstration could not be drawn. That is the reason why we work together with two historians of science: Charlotte Bigg, a historian of physics, chemistry and astrophysics and their popularisation (Centre Alexandre Koyré, CNRS Paris) and David Aubin, historian of mathematics and physical sciences, the earth and the universe (Université Pierre-et-Marie-Curie, Paris).



**Deane Walker Lecturing at the Royal Opera House in the Strand 1817**

### How do you work?

We are specifically interested in the question how scientific maps of the heavens were transformed to theatre in popular science shows. If we want to understand the way in which planetarium performances

appealed to their audiences we need to pay attention to their theatrical quality. Therefore, we analyse the performers, the material and the resources that were deployed in staging. Addressing astronomy slides through their theatrical context allows us to clarify the relation between didactic goals and aesthetic features. The general opinion in the nineteenth century, as stated in the newspaper *London Lions* in 1826, was indeed that “Urania [muse of astronomy] need not disdain the co-operation of Terpsichore herself [muse of the dance]”, since “the science of astronomy is, perhaps, more than any other which can be named of the whole circle, the very science of which a popular display may most successfully be aided by the ornamental arts”.

This relation between educational and aesthetic goals is at the centre of our interest. To this end, we work with very different sources, such as descriptions in syllabi and workbooks by the lecturer-astronomers themselves, the genetic documents leading to and, also very often, accompanying the stage events, astronomical slides and their metadata, playbills that in the nineteenth century extensively detailed the narrative of the

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## Interview with Kurt Vanhoutte & Nele Wynants continued

performance. In addition, we are interested in all kinds of secondary resources such as engravings and pictorial representations of lecture performances in both contemporary magazines, newspapers, popular reviews, fictional narratives (Shelley, Hugo, Balzac, Sand a.o.) and scientific reports, or any other source available that might broaden our understanding of how astronomy was performed. We welcome any tip, suggestion, or (piece of) information that might be of interest to our research. So if you have something in your collection that relates to astronomy, we would love to hear from you!

### When and how did the Magic Lantern appear in your research?

Our fascination for the magic lantern in the theatre originates in our research into the phantasmagoria, performances that were created in the late 18th century before spreading throughout Europe in the 19th century. These spectacular shows were famous for conjuring up ghosts powered by (a kind of) magic lantern. This research resulted in an international conference, entitled *Kino Eye: Spectral Illusions* (2010), organised in collaboration with the museum for contemporary art in Antwerp (M HKA) that holds an impressive collection of early film cameras and projectors, film posters and so-called “pre-cinema” devices such as magic lantern projectors and slides, and



**Kurt and Nele at Coney Island**

other media archaeological devices. The collection was accumulated by Robert Vrielynck (1933-2006). Laurent Mannoni's exhibition *Lanterne magique et film peint* in Paris (2010) further ignited our interest in the theatrical context of magic lantern spectacles, particularly concerning the popularization of science.

### What do you wish to achieve with your research?

Our inquiry into planetarium performances aims to further explore the role of the magic lantern in theatre. We believe that science performances had a constitutive function for European modernity, and we aim to trace both their historical development and their strategies of representation. For example, in early modern London competition between magic lantern showmen was fierce and spectacular shows were brought to the scene in key venues such as the Royal Theatre or the Opera House. During the 19th century in Paris, the Boulevard du Temple was a famous place of popular science, next to the lecture performances being staged in official lecture halls and observatories. And by 1869, with the number of annual visitors reaching 200.000, the popularity of the planetarium performances in the Berlin Urania had outgrown the four-hundred-seat venue and construction began on an impressive building that could house the theatre alone. Cultural exchange between the European capitals of the 19th century is intrinsically linked with the legacy of the magic lantern.

Vanhoutte Kurt ([kurt.vanhoutte@uantwerpen.be](mailto:kurt.vanhoutte@uantwerpen.be))  
Wynants Nele ([nele.wynants@uantwerpen.be](mailto:nele.wynants@uantwerpen.be))



As Seen On



**Prices High even for 2 x 2 35mm Slide**

**ANTIQUE AMERICAN PAINTED  
HEART IN HAND MAGIC LANTERN  
SLIDE OF ODD FELLOWS 3rd**

Price: US \$299.99



**Vintage 1948 Magic Lantern  
Novelty Slide  
"GOOD NIGHT Sweet Dreams"**

Starting bid: US \$9.25

***A Big Thank You to the following:***

Dick Balzer  
Terry Borton  
Sarah Dellmann  
Ron Easterday

*for contributing to this month's issue.*

**Now it's your turn to share!**

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?  
If your answer is yes! Send site information or your images to Larry and they will be shared in the next E-pub newsletter.

**E-mail Larry**



## **We're Jumping and Dancing for Joy**



### **Corrections/Updates to members listed in the Directory**

**Herbert, Stephen**

Change in email  
s-herbert@easynet.co.uk

If you think something is missing, you probably have not yet renewed your membership for 2014. Dues are payable between January 1 and March 1 of each year, and memberships end April 1. Please check your personal information is correct for the 2014 directory and send a check or paypal to the Secretary-Treasurer.